

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A replaceable container for use with an apparatus for detecting and controlling subterranean termites, said apparatus having a substantially stationary aggregation base attractive to said termites for forming an aggregation site for said termites, said replaceable container comprising:

a cup comprising a bottom and an imperforate sidewall defining an interior chamber, said bottom having at least one opening facing the aggregation base to permit the passage of termites from the aggregation base to the interior chamber of the cup;

a material received within said container, wherein said material comprises at least one of a monitoring medium attractive to said termites and a bait both attractive and toxic to said termites; and

wherein said container is sized and shaped such that the container may be removed from the apparatus without substantially disturbing the aggregation base.

2. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 1 wherein said container is a cylindrical container comprising said bottom surface, an upper surface, and said sidewall, wherein said upper surface comprises at least one opening.

3. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 1 wherein said container is at least partially transparent.

4. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bait is a slow-acting toxicant.



5. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bait is cellulosic material impregnated with a toxicant in the form of a compressed powder, a tablet or granule.

6. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 5 wherein said cellulosic material is a purified cellulose tablet.

7. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 6 wherein said bait comprises three of said tablets.

8. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 1 wherein said bait comprises at least one compressed tablet having a mass of between about 20 grams (0.71 ounce) and about 35 grams (1.2 ounces).

9. The replaceable container as set forth in claim 8 wherein said at least one compressed tablet has a mass of between about 25 grams (0.88 ounce) and about 30 grams (1.06 ounces).

10. A method for detecting and controlling subterranean termites in a cavity accessible to said termites and having an aggregation base attractive to said termites in said cavity, said method comprising:

5       positioning a replaceable container within said cavity adjacent said aggregation base, said container enclosing a monitoring medium attractive to said termites; and

10       removing said replaceable container periodically to monitor said aggregation base to detect the presence of termites within said cavity, said replaceable container being sized and shaped such that the container may be removed from the cavity without disturbing the aggregation



base, thereby preserving any aggregation site formed by the termites within the void of the aggregation base.

11. A method as set forth in claim 10 further comprising replacing said replaceable container with a second replaceable container containing bait if termites are detected, said bait acting to control the termites by poisoning them with toxin.

12. A method as set forth in claim 10 further comprising removing said replaceable container periodically to monitor termite activity.

13. A method as set forth in claim 12 further comprising refilling said replaceable container with additional bait.

14. A method as set forth in claim 10 further comprising replacing said replaceable container within said cavity if no termites are detected.

15. An aggregation base for use with an apparatus received within a subterranean cavity for detecting and controlling subterranean termites, said aggregation base being attractive to said termites for forming an aggregation site for said termites, said apparatus having a replaceable container sized and shaped such that the container may be removed from the apparatus and replaced without substantially disturbing the aggregation base, said aggregation base comprising:

a generally cylindrical outer surface,  
at least one void within said aggregation base for forming an aggregation site for said termites, and



at least one channel passing through the aggregation base leading to said void.

16. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 15 wherein said void is substantially centrally located within said aggregation base.

17. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 16 wherein said outer surface of said aggregation base extends laterally outward to face said subterranean cavity.

18. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 17 wherein said at least one channel passes completely through said aggregation base from said outer surface of said aggregation base inward to said void.

19. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 15 wherein said aggregation base is a cellulosic material.

20. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 19 wherein said aggregation base is wood.

21. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 15 wherein said aggregation base is a plastic container having a sidewall,

5 said aggregation base further comprising a plurality of openings in the sidewall leading into the aggregation base.

22. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 21 wherein said void contains a cellulose material.



23. The aggregation base as set forth in claim 21 wherein said plurality of openings lead to said void within said aggregation base.